Reviewer’s report

Title: Geographic surveillance of community associated MRSA infections in children using electronic health record data

Version: 0 Date: 10 Nov 2018

Reviewer: A Kaushik

Reviewer's report:

Overall, a well-written and interesting study.

Major points:

1. Abstract- results section- "CA-MRSA encompasses larger areas with higher (SIRs compared.....". Please remove parenthesis before SIRs.

2. Abstract: conclusions- "crowding, and <4 years of age are at greatest risk..." Please add "children" before <4 years of age for grammatical correction.

3. Introduction- Last paragraph: please change from present tense to past tense to make the flow uniform.

4. Page 7- study design: second paragraph- The authors mention that all children with a first positive MRSA culture were considered to have MRSA infection. Were MRSA colonized children included in the study? Please specify.

5. Results- page 9-"There were a total of 5,379 CA- MRSA cases reported during this time period. We determined there were 10,642 community-associated S. aureus infections...."Please specify CA MRSA colonizations and infections in the above statements. Is it possible that the patients labeled as "infected" actually included both colonized and infected patients?

Please include data for number of colonized patients with CA MRSA as it would be highly relevant in the context of the findings of the study. If not available, this should be elaborated and reasons explained in detail in the "methods" and the "limitations" sections.

Minor Points:

1. Acknowledgements- "We are would like to" Please delete "are"
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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